

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Kevin Callori
(916) 654-9029

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**More than 250,000 unemployed California workers avoid interruptions
in unemployment checks due to newly approved federal legislation**

SACRAMENTO – President Barack Obama signed into law new tax legislation today that includes a reauthorization of federal unemployment extension benefits for another 13 months. While the legislation does not add anything further to the current maximum of up to 99 weeks of benefits available, it does add more time for eligible unemployed workers to be able to collect those maximum benefits while trying to secure a new job.

A total of more than 250,000 unemployed workers in California had faced possible interruptions in their unemployment benefits next week if the new federal legislation wasn't enacted by Saturday, December 18. In anticipation of Congressional action, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) was already taking steps to ensure there was no gap in services and that EDD is ready to file and pay extended benefits to eligible claimants.

“Here at EDD we understand how critically important unemployment benefits are to unemployed workers, their families, and their communities,” said EDD Chief Deputy Director Pam Harris. “In order to avoid benefit interruptions, especially during this holiday season, EDD has already sent out claim forms to impacted customers so they can complete and return them to EDD, allowing us to issue benefit payments to those eligible without delay.”

Approximately 23,000 of the more than 250,000 California customers impacted had recently run out of their current level of unemployment benefits and were prevented from moving into any further extension claim. With news of pending legislation approval, the EDD quickly filed their next extension claim and sent out claim forms. Now that extensions are reauthorized, these customers should complete their claim forms and return them to EDD as they normally would per the date noted on their form. Once received, it takes EDD a day or so to process the forms and issue payments to eligible customers. There is no need to reapply.

The remaining 235,000 of the people impacted are those with a payable balances remaining on the separate extension known as the FED-ED here in California. Without further Congressional action, the week ending December 11th was the last payable week of FED-ED benefits. The Department has continued to send claim forms to these customers in anticipation of the program being reauthorized. Customers should now complete those claim forms as they normally would and return them according to the date noted on the form. Payments can then be issued for eligible claimants without interruption.

(more)

Here is a breakdown of the new filing deadlines for federal extension benefits now that the program has been extended for another 13 months:

CURRENT UI EXTENDED BENEFIT DURATION & CLAIM DEADLINES

UI Benefits Provided During This Recession		
UI Claims	Maximum Weeks of Benefits Provided	Deadline for Starting This Type of UI Claim
Regular UI Claim	Up to 26 weeks of benefits	Once someone becomes unemployed
1st Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 20 weeks of benefits	December 25, 2011
2nd Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 14 weeks of benefits	January 1, 2012
3rd Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 13 weeks of benefits	January 1, 2012
4th Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 6 weeks of benefits	January 1, 2012
Separate FED-ED Extension	Up to 20 weeks of benefits	January 8, 2012
POTENTIAL TOTAL MAXIMUM BENEFITS	Up to 99 weeks of benefits	

The newly approved federal legislation enacted does not include any additional weeks of extended benefits, so the maximum total remains up to 99 weeks of benefits. As of December 13, 2010, there have been more than 264,000 unemployed workers in California who have run out of all available benefits, up to the 99 week maximum. Unemployed individuals may be eligible for assistance to meet basic needs as well as other services such as health care, counseling, employment and training assistance. For more information, read the “Assistance for Unemployed California Residents” flyer and the “Job Dislocation Brochure” on EDD’s website at: www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Federal_Unemployment_Insurance_Extensions.htm.

For more information on unemployment benefits and other EDD programs and services, we encourage our customers to check for updates on our website at www.edd.ca.gov and on our EDD Twitter and Facebook pages.

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